

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (presently further amended) A portable staging assembly comprising a first platform panel having an upper surface and a lower surface, said platform panel pivotally connected to a second platform panel having an upper surface and a lower surface, the second platform panel further being pivotally connected to a base assembly wherein when the first and second platform panels are in a position for use substantially coplanar and parallel to a ground surface the upper surface of the first platform panel and the upper surface of the second platform panel face upward and the second platform panel is supported by a plurality of ground engaging supports and the first platform panel is supported by at least one ground engaging support and by the second platform panel, and wherein when the first and second platform panels are pivoted to a storage position substantially perpendicular to the ground surface the respective upper surfaces of the first and second platform panels face one another.

2. (previously amended) The portable staging assembly of claim 1, wherein the first platform panel is adapted to be pivoted from a storage position toward the ground surface while the second platform panel is in a storage position substantially perpendicular to the ground surface.

3. (previously amended) The portable staging assembly of claim 1, further comprising a first platform panel restraint to selectively prevent the first platform panel from pivoting relative to the second platform panel when the first and second platform panels are in the storage position substantially perpendicular to the ground surface.

4. (original) The portable staging assembly of claim 3, wherein the first platform panel restraint also locks the second platform panel in the storage position.

5. (original) The portable staging assembly of claim 4, wherein a second platform panel restraint prevents the second platform panel from being pivoted to a position substantially parallel to the ground surface if the first platform panel is still in the storage position.

6. (original) The portable staging assembly of claim 5, wherein the second platform panel restraint is connected to the first platform panel.

7. (original) The portable staging assembly of claim 6, wherein the second platform panel restraint engages the base assembly.

8. (original) The portable staging assembly of claim 1, wherein the ground engaging supports are adjustable in length.

9. (original) The portable staging assembly of claim 8, wherein the adjustable ground engaging supports comprise telescopic leg assemblies.

10. (original) The portable staging assembly of claim 9, wherein each telescopic leg assembly further comprises a first tube and a second tube that slideably engages the first tube.

11. (original) The portable staging assembly of claim 10, further comprising a storage rack to hold the second tube of each telescopic leg assembly when in a storage position.

12. (original) The portable staging assembly of claim 1, wherein the base assembly further comprises wheels.

13. (original) The portable staging assembly of claim 12, wherein the wheels connected to the base assembly are of the caster type.

14. (original) The portable staging assembly of claim 1, wherein the base assembly further comprises a panel stop to engage the second platform panel and assist in holding the second platform panel in the storage position after the first panel has been pivoted to a position at an acute angle or substantially parallel to the ground surface.

15. (previously amended) A method of assembling a portable stage comprising the steps of:

rolling across a ground surface a portable staging assembly having first and second platform panels, said platform panels each having an upper surface and a lower surface, said platform panels pivotally connected to each other with the platform panels in a storage position substantially perpendicular to the ground surface wherein the respective upper surfaces of the platform panels face one another, and further having the second platform panel pivotally connected to a base assembly having wheels,

while maintaining the second platform panel in the storage position, pivoting the first platform panel from the storage position to a position at an acute angle or parallel to the ground surface wherein the first platform panel is supported in part by at least one ground engaging support connected to the first platform panel, and

pivoting the second platform panel to a position substantially parallel to the ground surface wherein it is supported by a plurality of ground engaging supports connected to the second platform panel while simultaneously locating the first platform panel in a position substantially parallel to the ground surface wherein the first platform panel is supported by the at least one ground support connected to the first platform panel and by the second platform panel and the respective upper surfaces of the platform panels face upward.

16. (original) The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of moving the at least one ground engaging support connected to the first platform panel from a storage position substantially parallel to the first platform panel to a use position to provide support in a direction perpendicular to the first platform panel prior to pivoting the first platform panel to a position at an acute angle or parallel to the ground surface.

17. (original) The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of adjusting the length of the plurality of ground engaging supports connected to the second platform panel to be of comparable length to the at least one ground engaging support connected to the first platform panel prior to pivoting the second platform panel to a position substantially parallel to the ground surface.

18. (original) The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of disengaging a first platform panel restraint prior to pivoting the first platform panel from the storage position to the position at an acute angle or parallel to the ground surface.

19. (original) The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of automatically disengaging a second platform panel restraint when the first platform panel is pivoted to the position at an acute angle or parallel to the ground surface, permitting the second platform panel to be pivoted to a position substantially parallel to the ground surface.

20. (original) The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of automatically lifting the base assembly from the ground surface as the second platform panel is pivoted to a position substantially parallel to the ground surface.